
U.S. Department of Justice



United States Attorney's Office Eastern District of Virginia

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Meth Convictions Result in a Combined 4,291 Months Imprisonment

(Norfolk, VA) The last of twenty-seven defendants involved in the cross country and Tidewater area distribution of large quantities of "ice," a pure crystalline and highly addictive smokeable form of methamphetamine, were convicted and sentenced to a combined total of 4,291 months of imprisonment. Chuck Rosenberg, United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Virginia, announced today the conclusion of Operation Ice Storm.

The operation resulted in the seizure of \$900,000 in cash, 18 guns, and 9 pounds of "ice," some of which was 100 percent pure. The investigation also revealed that this group laundered money totaling more than \$1.3 million.

Much of the "ice" was likely manufactured in Mexican methamphetamine laboratories, known as super-labs, and smuggled into California. Co-conspirators in California generally shipped 1 to 2 pounds of meth per week to the Mid-Atlantic region, where it was redistributed and sold by dealers for \$2,200 an ounce.

United States Attorney Rosenberg stated, "The threat posed by these meth pushers is real and is on the increase in our communities. Our office will continue to aggressively prosecute those who manufacture, distribute, and use this dangerous drug."

The investigation was conducted by agents of the Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Force (OCDETF), consisting of agents with the Drug Enforcement Administration, the Internal Revenue Service, and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives. The Task Force was assisted by members of the Norfolk, Chesapeake and Virginia Beach Police Departments.

Assistant United States Attorney Laura M. Everhart. prosecuted the case.